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the Crown towards Parliament and the Cabinet after Reform, when for the first time for centuries England had a sovereign who was content to occupy a really constitutional position towards Parliament, and to abstain from all interference in the election of its members.

Further than this, the Peel volumes throw much additional and often-times new light on Wellington, Canning, Liverpool, Grey, Russell, Melbourne, Palmerston, Graham, Gladstone, Disraeli, Bentinck, Cobden, Bright and O'Connell ; in fact on nearly every statesman or politician who was prominent in Parliament between the Union and the end of Peel's last administration. The chapter on the life and character of Peel by his grandson, the Hon. George Peel, with which the third volume is brought to a close, is so helpful to readers, especially to those not familiar with all the ins and outs of English politics during Peel's long career, that it would have been well had it been given an earlier place in the volumes.

EDWARD PORRITT.

Cavour. By the Countess EVELYN MARTINENGO CESARESCO. [Foreign Statesmen Series.] (New York : The Macmillan Co. 1898. Pp. 222.)

THIS book has several claims to consideration. In the first place, it is the first biography written in English of the European statesman who, with Bismarck, dominates the last half of the nineteenth century. The hasty memoir which Mr. Dicey compiled and published a few weeks after Cavour's death, cannot be seriously considered in any discussion of Cavour biographies, and De La Rive's invaluable recollections lost their fine edge in being translated into English ; so that to Countess Cesaresco belongs the credit of a pioneer. She is also the first to present, in any language, an epitome of the voluminous material which has accumulated during the past twenty years. But this would not suffice of itself to stamp her book with the distinction which characterizes it. She has achieved the double feat of making the personages she has to deal with live, and of keeping a proper balance between biography and history. It is as rare to find an historian who can breathe life into his characters as it is to find a novelist. In this very series, for example, Mr. Frederic Harrison, writing on William the Silent, and Mr. Richard Lodge, writing on Richelieu, do not always make us feel that William and Richelieu were once alive. Countess Cesaresco, on the other hand, never suggests that Cavour was merely a lay-figure on which she clothes certain historical abstractions. So, too, although in her summary Cavour's work predominates, as it should, the share which other actors took in the unification of Italy is clearly and accurately stated, and the general principles involved are well defined. Her book might be used as a syllabus by any one wishing to master this most fascinating period ; but it differs from other syllabi in being full of sparkle and interest.

Among the points which the author has dealt with especially well is

the hostility of the Vatican to the reform of clerical abuses in Piedmont. In another chapter Countess Cesaresco brings out for the first time the immense burden which Cavour carried between his compact with Napoleon III. at Plombières, in July, 1858, and the declaration of war, in April, 1859. It has come to be the fashion to speak as if Cavour, having persuaded the Emperor at Plombières, had little more to do until war came; in fact, however, the intervening nine months of suspense tested his immense versatility to the utmost. Throughout this volume, the specialist will value the lucid description of the shifting policy, now hot, now cold, of official England towards the Italian cause. Being an Englishwoman married to an Italian, Countess Cesaresco is able to follow intelligently the international relations of both governments. Elsewhere, in her allusions to French politics she shows an equal familiarity with the country from which even more than from England Cavour got indispensable aid. There are few persons so conversant with Cavour's life that they cannot find some new points, or old ones set in new and striking fashion, in this admirable epitome. It has throughout a wit and charm seldom met with in any historical writing nowadays, qualities which, being accompanied by adequate knowledge, contribute to give the book permanent value. Judging from the present tendency of our producers of historical books it will be long before we have an equally excellent biographical summary of Washington or of Lincoln, though it is greatly to be desired that their lives should be told with just such clearness, condensation, truth and charm.

WILLIAM R. THAYER.

The Annals of the Voyages of the Brothers Nicolo and Antonio Zeno in the North Atlantic about the end of the Fourteenth Century and the claim founded thereon to a Venetian Discovery of America; A Criticism and an Indictment. By FRED. W. LUCAS. (London: Henry Stevens Son and Stiles. 1898. Pp. xiv, 233.)

THIS elaborate work has already been well described and epitomized, and in this brief notice one must proceed directly to the few points selected for attention, simply adding a recognition of the obligation the diligent and courteous author has placed us all under by his valuable labors.

The author claims to have convicted Zeno the Younger of a "contemptible literary fraud;" and tells us that, at the time he wrote, "any man with a few ducats in his pocket" could have commanded the material for the narrative. In fact, he maintains that he has furnished "the last word" on this subject. The tone and language of the author are those of the victor, but possibly he is too victorious. His positions are by no means impregnable.

Mr. Lucas objects to apocryphal things in the narrative; yet on this ground Mather's *Magnalia* might be dismissed. The best attested nar-